especially in Madurai District, during the current year and what is the financial allocation for the projects, if any;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rs. 2.50 lakhs has been allocated for widening National Highway No. 49 in Tamil Nadu (Madurai District) during the current financial year.

(c) Does not arise.

**Observations of CAG on construction of dust suppression Plant at Visakhapatnam**

4132. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the observations of the Comptroller & Auditor Genereal of India with regard to construction of Dust Supperession Plant at Visakhapatnam Port and other irregularities, concerning which as case was filed in the Supreme, Court on Public interest;

(b) what action Government contemplate in the matter; and

(c) whether Government propose to inquire into the matter and take action against the erring officers against whom the charges are established through CBI inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The relevant extract from the Paragraph No. 23 of the Report No. 11 of 1991 of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31-3-1990 Union of India (other autonomous bodies) with regard to observations on construction of Dust Suppression Plant at Visakhapatnam Port is as given in Statement (*See* below).

No notice from Supreme Court has been received by Visakhapatnam Port Trust in the case said to have been filed in Public interest. The action to encash the bank guarantees was initiated by Visakhapatnam Port Trust but could not be finally concluded due to pendency of a suit in the Bombay City Civil Court.

No case has been registered by the CBI.

The Port Trust have written to all major ports on 10-7-89 informing the poor performance of the firm M/s. Indabrator Ltd. which undertook this work and asking them to keep this in view while awarding contracts in future. The Government of India have also written to all the Major Ports on 16-8-1989 asking them to incorporate suitable contractual provisions for taking timely preventive action for recovery and for entering into new contracts in the cases of poor performance by the contractors.

**Statement**

*The relevant extract from the paragraph No. 23 of the Report No. 11 of 1991 of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31-3-1990 Union of India (other autonomous bodies) with regard to observations on construction of Dust Suppression Plant at Visakhapatnam Port*

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**Para 23.13.3:** Unfruitful expenditure

To prevent environmental pollution and protect the health of the workers from the dust emanating at the Ore Handling Complex during the operation of the Plant, the Port Trust obtained the sanction of Government of India to the installation of a dust control system at the complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 97.00 lakhs in November, 1978 and entrusted the work to a firm at a cost of Rs. 79.76 lakhs in December, 1978. The dust control equipment was to be installed at 10 selected aspiration points. Though the work was to be completed by November, 1979 installation was completed at only three aspiration points in 1983, one point in 1984 and five points in 1985. The installation of the equipment at the tenth aspiration point had not been completed (June, 1990). The Port Trust spent Rs. 81.02 lakhs upto March, 1990 and the balance work was estimated to cost Rs. 17.05 lakhs. The delay of nearly 10 years in the completion of the work was attributed by the Port Trust to (i) realignment of Railway Lines consequent to erection of 3rd Wagon Tippler, (ii) contractor's failure to station an engineer for erection and commissioning of the equipment, and (iii) his failure to start the work in respect of the 10th aspiration point.

The equipment at the nine points was got tested only in December, 1986 to determine the operational readiness. Instructions for operation and maintenance of the equipment were issued only in April, 1988 directing that the

equipment at all the nine aspiration points of the system "should be made functional and operated regularly" during ship loading and receiving operations of the plant. A scrutiny of the relevant operational records in audit revealed that the utilisation was nil during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86 and was less than 3 per cent in the years 1982-83, 1983-84, 1986-87 and 1988-89 with reference to the number of hours the Ore Handling Plant had worked.

Thus the Dust Control system had not served the purpose of preventing environmental pollution and safeguarding the health of workers and the expenditure of Rs. 81.02 lakhs incurred on the project remained unfruitful .

**Construction on New Port at Ennore**

4133. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved the construction of New Port at Ennore (Near Madras);

(b) if so, the details thereof, including commencement and completion of the work and financial allocation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contstruction of New Port at Ennore (near Madras) has been sanctioned on 23-4-93 at an estimated cost of Rs. 593.90 crores. The work is scheduled to be completed by 22-4-98.

(c) Does not arise.

**Construction of Bridges on National Highways in Gujarat**

4134. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges constructed on the national highways in Gujarat during the year 1992-93 and also the number of those proposed to be constructed during 1993-94 and together with their locations;

(b) the number of bridges repaired/are being repaired on National Highways in Gujarat during the last two years; and

(c) what are the yearwise details of the amount spent on repairs of the bridges on National Highways during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Four bridges located at Km. 140/2—4 of National Highway-8; Km. 1/70 of NH-8B; Km. 2/60 of NH-8B and on link road joining NH-8 and NH-8A have been completed in Gujarat during 1992-93. Depending upon the availability of funds following 51 bridges are targetted for completion during 1993-94 :—

42 bridges (29 Road over bridges, 11 under passes and 2 Rail over bridges) on Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway.

3 Bridges on National Highway-8.

2 Rail Over Bridges on NH-8A.

2 Bridges on NH-8B.

2 Rail Over Bridges on NH-8C.

(b) Seven bridges.

(c) 1991-92 Rs. 60 lakhs

1992-93 (Provisional) Rs. 43 lakhs

**Development of National Highways**

4135. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1864 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1993 and state :

(a) out of the amount, how much was spent exclusively for development work of the highway;

(b) how many projects/schemes did the respective State Governments during this period submit to the Central Government for the development of this highway;

(c) the details of each scheme, as to when it was submitted, whether it was approved or not;

(d) if the scheme or project is yet to be approved, the stage at which the scheme is presently pending before Government;

(e) whether the Central Government would send a high level team to assess the needs of the highway and study particularly the ghat section from Nerimangalam to Bodyanaickakoor;

(f) whether this ghat section is laid with rubberised bitumen; and